

Torrance Herald



EIGHTEENTH YEAR—No. 31

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1932

5c PER COPY

STEEL MILL TAKES OUT BIG PERMIT

HEALTH CENTER CORNERSTONE FORMALLY PLACED WEDNESDAY

Ceremony Marks Progress of Construction of Long Awaited New Building Awarded by Supervisors to Torrance

In the presence of a large crowd of Torrance citizens and visiting county officials, the cornerstone of the new Torrance health center was formally put in place Wednesday afternoon.

The program began at 2 o'clock, following a dinner given by the contractor, Carlo Bongiovanni, to city and county officials and prominent citizens of Torrance representing the city council, Chamber of Commerce and numerous service clubs.

Chairman John Dennis, Justice of the Peace and former mayor of Torrance, under whose administration the work of securing the health center was undertaken and carried to a successful conclusion, presided and introduced the speakers.

The following program was carried out:

Singing, "America," by the assembly led by James W. Leech, Thomas Ulrich at the piano.
Invocation, Rev. John B. Speed.
Welcome Greeting, Mayor Klumman.

Response, County Auditor H. A. Payne.

Official introductions: County officials, municipal officers, organization representatives, contractor and aides.

Address, Dr. John L. Pomeroy.
Address and Setting of the Cornerstone, Supervisor John R. Quinn.

Selected Numbers, Drum corps, Benediction, Rev. D. A. Hurley.

Following the opening numbers on the program, Chairman John Dennis introduced the visitors and speakers of the afternoon. Mayor W. T. Klumman welcomed the guests, and gave a brief history of the work that had been done in securing the site and the appropriation from the board of supervisors to erect the new building.

Judge Dennis then introduced County Auditor H. A. Payne, who responded to the remarks of the Torrance mayor.

He was followed by Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, county health officer, who spoke of the purposes to which the new building is dedicated, the promotion of health and prevention of disease.

Judge Dennis then introduced Supervisor John R. Quinn, who has worked with the representatives of Torrance for more than a year in the interest of the new building. To the good offices of Mr. Quinn and Dr. Pomeroy Torrance owes its success in obtaining this valuable concession from the board. Mr. Quinn heartily congratulated the people of Torrance for their public spirit in seeking this concession and their consistency in maintaining the effort in the face of difficulty and discouragement. He praised the site chosen for the building, which he said was one of the most attractive he had ever seen. It was particularly fitting said the supervisor that the site had been chosen in this spot, near to the building erected for the American Legion whose veterans had made heroic sacrifices to uphold our present civilization, since the new building also represented a phase of devotion to that civilization in preserving the health of the communities and making stronger, better, and more enlightened citizens.

As he grasped the trowel and laid the first mortar beneath the cornerstone, he said, "In behalf of the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, and the citizens of Torrance, I dedicate this building to service and brotherly love."

On the cornerstone is inscribed the following inscription: "Los Angeles County Health Center, Redondo-Torrance District, 1932. Board of Supervisors: Henry W. Wright, Chairman; Hugh A. Thatcher, 1st District; Frank L. Shaw, 2d District; Harry M. Baine, 3rd District; John R. Quinn, 4th District."

Placed in a copper box, hermetically sealed, which now rests beneath the stone were a copper plaque presented by the Bert S. Crossland Post expressing appreciation to the following:

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Six Million Cut In County Cost of Government

Preliminary Budget Figures Indicate 88-cent Tax Rate Retained

Los Angeles county government for 1932-33 will cost the taxpayers \$5,979,615 less than for the previous year, it was revealed today by the preliminary county budget figures released by County Auditor H. A. Payne.

Including special assessment district needs, county taxpayers will be called upon to raise for governmental purposes a total of \$36,033,029. This is nearly \$3,000,000 more than required for 1931-32, which was \$33,743,067.

The increase is due in a large measure to the added requirements for the county welfare department which has had a peak load of more than 30,000 cases or well over 100,000 persons, and anticipates an even greater load during the coming winter.

The welfare department has set aside for it \$15,503,807, which includes Olive View Sanatorium, the county farm, El Retiro School for Girls and such institutions. This is a decrease of some \$3,500,000 under last year because the last appropriation has been made for the new acute unit of the General Hospital.

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Health Center Cornerstone Laid



Supervisor John R. Quinn wields the trowel as Judge John Dennis presides at impressive ceremony in Torrance yesterday. Both officials have labored long and diligently for over a year to secure \$50,000 county building for Torrance.

Joe W. Peterson Injured In Fall at New Building

Scaffolding Gives Way Throwing Two Men to the Ground

Joseph W. Peterson, 1738 Manuel avenue, well known contractor and carpenter of Torrance, is at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital recovering from a serious injury sustained at the new Fern avenue school building Monday.

Peterson was with John K. Luthy, 2517 Independence street, South Gate, working on a scaffolding in the basement of the new structure, when the scaffold gave way and let the two men fall to the ground. Joe fell on a concrete reinforcing steel rod which penetrated his back to the depth of several inches. He was taken to the hospital in a dazed condition from the shock of the fall and the wound, where, he received treatment.

At this time it is reported that he is improving nicely and will soon recover.

Peterson had just gone to work on the new building on Monday morning and had not completed a day's work when the accident occurred about 3 p. m.

Luthy, the other carpenter who was on the scaffolding, was unhurt.

Plan to Build Memorial Pier at Redondo Beach

The county board of supervisors today had under consideration a proposal advanced by Redondo Beach residents to construct a fishing pier at the edge of the deep water canyon for deep sea fishing. The pier would be a memorial to the late Fred Wadsworth, for many years superintendent of the county department of recreation, camps and playgrounds.

The proposal was outlined to the supervisors this week by Dr. John M. Clarke of the beach city. Plans for the pier were drawn some months ago, and the name of Wadsworth pier now is proposed in tribute to the late superintendent of the county department.

Contention of Redondo Beach residents is that the pier would pay for itself in approximately 10 years and would thereafter be a source of revenue for the department. Although it is not known to every Los Angeles county resident, Redondo Beach has the deepest harbor of any port and was the original terminus of the Santa Fe railroad. Until 1926 it boasted a loading pier for seagoing vessels and the battle fleet formerly anchored there. The deep water would provide exceptionally good deep sea fishing.

C. C. M. O. DONATES GAS TO RELIEF ASSOCIATION

The C. C. M. O. company has arranged to supply the Veterans Relief Association with 50 gallons of gasoline a week, to take care of the needs of the trucks used in hauling men and supplies.

Veterans Relief Furnishes Help to 81 Families

Thousands of Pounds of Fruits and Vegetables Are Handled at Warehouse

Since the opening of the Veterans Relief Association headquarters at 1224 El Prado, an average of 81 families have been provided for in 11 days. At an average of four persons to the family, 324 people have been supplied with food through the association, in return for the labor contributed by the head of the household.

Several thousand pounds of fruits and vegetables have passed through the warehouse, and in addition to these supplies liberal quantities of staple goods such as salt and sugar, and other items of baked goods, milk and dairy products, have been turned over to the Relief.

Fish in considerable quantities have been obtained through the efforts of a number of the men registered who have been assigned to this task, and who go to the fishing barges, where they are taken on board through an arrangement with the owners made by E. M. Kingsley, former Torrance resident, and supplied with tackle and bait. Some 400 pounds of fresh fish has been secured during the 11 days past, and the men will continue this work indefinitely, so that there will be a supply on hand for those who want it.

In the roster of firms who have contributed liberally in time, material and money, the list of Torrance merchants and industrial firms is practically complete. The association is now well equipped to carry on the task for which it was organized and is running smoothly.

Better Pictures Promised by New Theatre Manager

Torrance Theatre to Close Temporarily Sunday For Many Alterations

Torrance Theatre has been leased to the Caplan interests, former successful operators of high class theatres in San Diego and Santa Barbara, according to an announcement made this week by D. L. Hill, general manager of Pacific National Theatres, Inc.

Extensive improvements and alterations will be made in the local theatre, which will necessitate the temporary closing of the house for one or two weeks, Mr. Hill stated. Among the improvements planned is the removal of balcony seats and the installation of loges. It is also expected that the stage will be remodeled and the entire interior of the theatre renovated and dressed-up for the formal opening under the new management.

The Caplan interests have access to a wider range of pictures than is possible under the present management, Mr. Hill stated, and patrons of the Torrance Theatre are promised exceptionally high class shows. Final performances under the present management will be given Saturday of this week, after which the theatre will be temporarily closed for alterations. No definite date has been set for the reopening, but it is expected that it will require from one to two weeks to install the improvements.

Frank Higgins, present manager, is to be retained on the theatre staff, Mr. Hill stated.

U. S. Attorney to Address First Voters Monday at C. of C.

Hugh L. Dickson, assistant United States attorney at Los Angeles, will be the speaker at the next meeting of the First Voters' Club Monday evening, August 8, at the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dickson is a very interesting speaker and intersperses his talk with many humorous remarks. The public is invited to attend.

Regular meetings are to be held every Monday hereafter, the time and place to be announced through this newspaper.

Election Returns Checked at City Hall

Election returns for the August 30 primary election in and around Torrance will be checked in at the Torrance city hall and the Kemble Motors agency in Gardena, it is announced by Registrar of Voters W. M. Kerr. The two places were designated by the board of supervisors this week upon Kerr's recommendation.

Workmen Fill Hole Where Oil Appears

Workmen, thought to be from the county road department, this week filled in the hole at the side of the pavement near Glen West's garage in the Palms Verdes foothills from which crude oil had been seeping. The presence of the oil created something of a stir among the residents of the territory. Several samples were taken by representatives of the Standard and other oil companies, but Mr. West has not yet been informed of the results.

Young Matron Killed In Auto Accident

Mrs. Mae Phipps, age 21, wife of Albert Phipps, residing at 2213 Caballo avenue, was killed Sunday night when the car in which she was riding with her husband and Mrs. Earl McBride of the same address, overturned at 91st street and Main.

Mrs. McBride was severely injured, while Phipps escaped with minor cuts and bruises. Funeral services for Mrs. Phipps will be held Friday at 2 o'clock from Stone & Myers chapel, with interment at Roosevelt Memorial Park.

An inquest and autopsy held following the accident disclosed that Mrs. Phipps' skull had been crushed. She was a native of St. Paul, Minn.

\$400,000 BUILDING PERMIT ISSUED TODAY TO COLUMBIA

New Construction Includes Additional Rolling Mill For Manufacturing Automotive Sheets, Laboratory, and Accessory Buildings

A \$400,000 building permit covering expansions of the Torrance plant was taken out this morning by the Columbia Steel Company, subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation.

The new construction includes a new rolling mill, 100 feet long, laboratory, grease house and other accessory buildings, cold rolled stands, pickling plant and other machinery, which will be used in manufacturing full finished sheets for automobile manufacturers.

The construction permit taken out this morning at the Torrance city hall covers a large share of the huge half million dollar expansion program announced exclusively by the Torrance Herald three weeks ago.

Since the first announcement on July 14, a large number of the steel company's employes have been recalled to work. At present, only former employes are being hired, and no work is available for those not previously on the payroll. The construction program will furnish immediate work for a large number of men and as soon as the new buildings are constructed and the equipment installed, a considerably larger force of men will be employed in manufacturing the new sheets for the automotive trade.

Prospects for regular employment at the Torrance mills are better than at any time since the depression began, and a spirit of optimism and confidence prevails throughout the huge plant.

Naming of New Councilman Is Puzzle to Many

Hitchcock, Gramling, Bev. Smith and Leatherman Are Mentioned

Who will be the council appoint to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. G. A. R. Steiner? This is a question that is puzzling many local residents as well as the members of the city council themselves.

Among those who have been mentioned are: James E. Hitchcock of the C. C. M. O., Carl Gramling, Sr., of the Pacific Electric Shops, Beverly Smith of the Union Tool and O. A. Leatherman.

A petition signed by a large number of Gramling's friends has been filed with City Clerk Bartlett. Hitchcock has been interviewed by at least three members of the city council, it is reported, but it is not known whether he will accept the appointment if offered it.

The council adjourned its meeting this week until next Tuesday evening with the intention of discussing the matter and possibly making the appointment. Only 30 days are allowed under the law, and in the event the council cannot agree upon an appointment within 30 days from the time the office is vacated, an election must be called.

At any rate, it looks as though there would be much string pulling and politicking before next Tuesday's meeting.

Trust Fund Gives Aid to Distressed Property Owners

In acknowledging the receipt of Torrance's contribution to the expense fund of the Los Angeles Home Owners Trust Fund, E. C. D. Price, assistant manager, says, "I wish that every community in Los Angeles county had shown the same spirit of co-operation as has Torrance. Ours is a terrific job, and it is only with the most complete co-operation that we can hope to succeed."

To date, through the efforts of the trust fund, 350 homes have been saved from foreclosure and information has been furnished to more than 1200 citizens.

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Mystifying Musical Instrument Played At Church Program

The Mills Duo, radio-recording artists and Victory Gospel Singers, will put on a program at the First Baptist church on Sunday, August 7, which will be "different," according to their announcement. The Mills Duo will be heard in solos, duets, readings, whistling numbers, musical saw, Victor thoremin and magical lemons, with an additional presentation of the world's most mystifying instrument. This instrument has no keys, no strings, reeds or pipes, and is played without the operator touching it.

The public is invited to hear this unusual presentation.

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